



## NORTHAMPTON REFEREES' ASSOCIATION

# NEWSLETTER

[www.northamptonreferees.org.uk](http://www.northamptonreferees.org.uk)

Issue 002 - 1st October 2012

[newsletter@northamptonreferees.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@northamptonreferees.org.uk)

## RA TARGETS 100% MEMBERSHIP

The National Referees Association has set a bold target of achieving 100% membership of all registered referees by 2025, and this goal is the mission to be undertaken by the new General Manager, Phil Joslin.

Joslin, who took over the newly defined position in July, when former General Secretary Arthur Smith retired, is passionate about the development of referees and remains a Level 3 FA Regional Coach, listing our own Chris Knowles as one of his former pupils. He has been a referee since 1979 (33 years), during which time he was a Football League Assistant Referee (1992 to 1993), Premier League Assistant Referee (1993 to 1999), National List Referee (1999 to 2009) and FIFA Assistant Referee (1994-99).

Phil officiated as an Assistant Referee in Euro 1996 and was also Assistant Referee for the 1998 FA Cup Final between Arsenal and Newcastle United. Completing 396 games as a National List Referee, Phil's final game was Southampton v Sheffield United at St. Mary's in 2009.

The majority of Phil's life has been centred round refereeing, and after his career at the top level finished, he left his role at an Engineering Company after 32 years of service, to become the Referee Development Officer in Derbyshire. He then moved on to become the first Referee Development Officer in Lincolnshire before taking on his current role at the RA.

Phil told us, "I have always been a positive individual and I try and convey this trait to everyone I come into contact with. My motto is always control the controllables, enjoy every minute, and every part of refereeing, no matter what your role is." He continued, "It is really important that the RA encourages, fosters and retains its current membership, whilst driving forward in order to recruit new members, as there are so many benefits to be gained from belonging to a strong RA."

And how will the RA attempt to achieve their 100% membership goal? Well firstly they have a six point plan to raise their profile amongst referees and to provide the

best possible resource centre and support structure to those who want to take up the whistle. That plan consists of:

**Integrating the RA as part of the referees course**

**Ensuring that the environments created for RA meetings are conducive to good learning**

**Fostering closer working relationships with the Football Association**

**Ensuring that every newly registered referee becomes an RA member prior to accepting appointments**

**Presenting referees with the opportunities to develop as an individual, both locally and nationally**

**Utilising social networking sites to promote and enhance good practices**



Phil Joslin - RA General Manager

*"It is important that we engage new referees very early in the process"*

Phil's main role as General Manager will involve driving forward this plan through the enhancement of communications with members, portraying the positive aspects of the RA, inspiring referees to attend Local Society meetings and rewarding its volunteers.

*"It is important that the RA gives all referees opportunity to develop, offers first class training and education and utilises the vast knowledge within its current ranks to help in the development of others",* enthuses Phil. *"We need to provide environments where Referees can discuss local Football Issues, form friendships, develop their refereeing and learn from their peers".*

One of the main areas that will be targeted, are the courses run for new referees.

*"It is important that we engage new referees very early in the process",* continues Phil. *"The Association needs to provide access to creditable RA members and the option to be mentored by an RA member working with County FA Schemes. I feel that it is crucial for the retention of referees, especially those younger referees, that an accessible and sympathetic support system is provided for them to fall back on. We want to look at the possibility of integrating membership of the RA within the Referee Registration process and to change people's mind-set as to how they currently perceive the RA. We want*



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**Northampton RA**  
**Click on above image**

*to support the County FA's in the retention of referees, promote and support the National Referee Development Programme, ensure best practices are shared between Local RA's and ensure training & development is commensurate with County FA programmes."*

It is a very tough mission, some would say Mission Impossible, but then Phil Joslin never was one to shy away from a challenge.

We at Northampton RA wish Phil Joslin every success.

**QUEST** will be the new keyword for the RA under Phil's guidance;

### Quality Excellence Standard

- Quality of meetings
- Quality of management
- Standardisation of RA's
- Rewards for Quality standards

### NRA Christmas Party

**Saturday 8th December at Wootton Hall Police HQ**  
**Karaoke/Disco**



**7:30pm**

**Tickets £5 each**

**Family event (U16s free)**

**All monies raised to be donated to the RA Benevolent Fund**

# Whistleblower

**Rob Page aka the Whistleblower.** Every month we have a new edition for the Newsletter. It is guaranteed to give you a laugh and show the light-hearted side to referees, and what is more....**NOBODY** is safe from his views!

**Whistleblower Gives It To You Straight!**

September 2012



Well, the season has started with some glorious weather and hopefully your pre-season training stints have prepared you well for the games ahead? I know that Simon Adkins has certainly taken a serious view of this season. He has been diluting his pie intake with lashings of gravy and is down to just 20 pies a week. Now that's what I call commitment!

We have a record number of referees registered with our county FA, this season - and this has led to a problem. Some ref's, who are going for promotion, are wondering if they will get their quota of matches in, in order to qualify for their potential leap up the levels. So, I would like to offer some advice, to those who find themselves in this dilemma:

Sunday League football has far better coverage now, than for many seasons, however, I am sure that Richard Wilson (Sunday Combination & Sunday Conference) & Mark Wardell (Rushden & District Sunday League) would welcome your services as a ref, if only for one or two Sunday's a month.

Likewise, I am happy to appoint Level 7 or 6 ref's to the Senior Youth League middle, provided they are going for promotion. These Under 18 matches now count towards your promotion quota. I can only offer one game per month but it all helps towards that total. Ref's who did games as Level 6's & 7's on this league and went on to bigger things include: Gary Nowak, Paul Cooper, Rob Evans & Gavin McFarlane; all now Level 4. Stuart Tweedale, Jason O'Farrell, Gary Gurney, Paul Hursey & Ian Huckle (now Level 5's). Also, there are high hopes for the likes of: James Wetherall, Sam Brough, Adam Kirkup, Andrew Tweedale, Liam Jackson & Russell Sykes, to progress rapidly through the ranks.

The Saturday Senior leagues (UCL, Combination & Town League) can only offer so many matches and the UCL have strict guidelines on the Level of referee they can use for their matches. So, broaden your scope and look to gain your quota by encompassing as many leagues as possible. Just don't forget to close your dates with ALL the leagues you officiate on.

On less serious note, I have some further news on the "Chris Packet" saga;

As most of you will know, one of our number actually turned up for a fixture believing that one of his assistants would be Mr Chris Packet. Only to be confronted with a Crisp Packet! Over the seasons we have had similar instances of referees trying to confirm assistants such as:

Toby Lerone	(he's out on his own)
Jim Shuse	(One of twins)
Greg Spastey	(Needs to beef up a bit)
Terry Sawgold	(Good in & around the box)
Neil Downe	(say's a prayer before the game)

We even had one level 4 ring up, to ensure Drew McHurtence would be at his game on time. If only he hadn't had a lie-in! So, remember to check the details on all appointments thoroughly and only start to panic if one "David Avent" is on your match.

All the best

## NEXT RA MEETING

**THU 4th OCT 2012 - 7:30pm Start**  
**Wootton Hall Police HQ**  
**Guest Speaker - RICHARD BEEBY**

Former Football League Referee Richard Beeby will be the guest speaker at our October Meeting.

Richard Beeby began his refereeing career in the local Northampton leagues, eventually attaining Football League status in 1999.

His first ever match as a Football League referee was the 2-1 home win by Southend over Plymouth in the old Third Division on 7 August 1999.



In 2004, he took charge of the old First Division Play-off Semi-final, first leg, between Crystal Palace and Sunderland at Selhurst Park on 14 May 2004, and was then appointed to control the old Second Division Play-off Final between Brighton & Hove Albion and Bristol City at the Millennium Stadium, Cardiff, on 30 May 2004, when a late Leon Knight penalty secured promotion for the South coast team.

Although never on the Premier League list of referees, Richard was appointed on 7 May 2005 to the Aston Villa versus Manchester City tie at Villa Park, which ended in a 2-1 victory for City. In that same year, he was also given the honour of being the referee for the FA Vase Final. This was played on 14 May 2005 at White Hart Lane in London, between A.F.C. Sudbury and Didcot Town. He also handled a Semi-final second leg in the Football League Championship Play-offs, when Preston drew 0-0 at Derby to ensure their place in the Final, thanks to a 2-0 first leg victory.

Richard was given further responsibility in the Play-offs in the 2006-07 season, when he took control of the Football League Two Play-offs Semi-final, first leg, between Bristol Rovers and Lincoln City at the Memorial Stadium on 12 May 2007. Richard retired from refereeing at the end of the 2008-09 season.

## SPORTS COMMENTATOR TRANSLATOR



**With a plethora of live matches coming to TV, as the Premier League moves into gear and the Champions League and FA Cup Competitions start up in earnest. We thought it would be a good idea to let you know what the Commentator really means!!**

"He'll be disappointed with that"  
"Seasoned player"  
"Loyal club player"  
"Dangerous in the box"  
"Keeper's weak on crosses"  
"Terrier like"  
"A natural leader"  
"Good squad player"  
"Competitive"  
"Very competitive"  
"Good solid player"  
"Creative"  
"Two footed"  
"Good defensive outfit"

**That was rubbish!**  
**Past it!**  
**Nobody else will have him!**  
**Scores own goals!**  
**Couldn't catch a bleedin' bus!**  
**Runs round like a headless chicken!**  
**A mouthy git!**  
**He gets a game if they're desperate!**  
**Dirty!**  
**Bloody lethal!**  
**Boring!**  
**Oscar winning dives & injuries!**  
**Useless with either one!**  
**It's like watching paint dry!**

## DEAR REF!

**Got a problem with your refereeing, or do you have a refereeing issue that you need urgently resolving. Perhaps you just need some clarification on a point of Law. Well have no fear, Agony Ref is here!**

**Just send in your refereeing problems to us at [support@northamptonreferees.org.uk](mailto:support@northamptonreferees.org.uk) and we will attempt to provide a solution to your refereeing woes with total anonymity.**



# LIVE-ING IT UP ON THE TELLY

by Wayne Chalmers

In early August 2012 I was on holiday with the family in sunny Majorca. Just as my learned colleague Dave said in a previous column, after 12 months of hard work in the teaching profession (three and a half months if you exclude the holidays) it was just the rest and recuperation I needed.

I decided to take the iPad on holiday with me. Not that the iPad deserved a holiday as you will understand, that would be just weird. I thought it wise to keep up to date with the worldly goings on this planet, including emails. I also wanted to be the first to know when the mighty Middlesbrough signed Messi, Ronaldo and Van Persie all in the same afternoon. Also, you never know when an important email might land in your inbox detailing the fact that you have been the 1000<sup>th</sup> visitor to a website you have never heard of and have won a small island in the Caribbean as your reward.

Anyway, it just so happened that on the Wednesday of our holiday MR MOAS, or MOAS to his good friends, happened to contact me twice in the same day. Email one detailed an FA cup middle I had been appointed to, a local derby between Huntingdon and St Ives. Cue a smug grin on my face, though this could have been wind after the ninth 'free' ice cream I'd eaten that day. The second email was just as pleasing, a job as assistant referee on the Women's Super League fixture between Birmingham City and Bristol Academy. I was familiar with this fixture as in April this year I also officiated on the FA Cup semi final between the same teams.

The next email was even more surprising. The words from the Birmingham club secretary stated that 'as you will be aware, the game is live on ESPN.' Erm....excuse me? ESPN? LIVE?! My grin was even smugger this time; some may even say it was gurning.

Anyway, the day of the match came. The game itself was to be an evening kick off and we were to arrive by 5.30 for a 7.30pm kick off at Stratford Town, where Birmingham City Ladies play. On the day of the game I had the pleasure of keeping my two lovely children occupied whilst the Mrs worked. A heavy diet of Lazytown, Bananas in Pyjamas and Fireman Sam (he deserves a pay rise or at least put Naughty Norman Price in borstal and that would save him a whole lot of work) meant that they were happy.

I met my fellow assistant Gary Nowak and we

drove to the ground arriving in good time, meeting Paul Forrester (referee) and Neil Pratt (4<sup>th</sup> official), an unfortunate name for a referee, in the boardroom. In true Mr Forrester fashion, he did his best to avoid the cherry bakewells in the hospitality area but succumbed to the flapjack. We were met there by several different people from the FA, the two clubs and the floor manager from ESPN. He advised that due to Sri Lankan cricket over running, we may have a delayed kick off. A first for all of us.



With time to kill we had a good look around the field of play and generally made derogatory remarks about each other. A good sign of quality team building. We got confirmation that the game indeed would kick off late and, with reference to the earlier comments, we retired to the changing rooms. Forrester looked for his zimmer frame; I found my XXXXL shirt and Nowak got out his Grecian 2000 and polish for his bald spot.

What struck us before the game was the amount of cameras and microphones around the ground. They also had cameras on the edge of each penalty area, a sure sign that they would be looking for offside and judgement calls on the edges. We were called out by the floor manager and following a good equipment check, we waited in the tunnel for about three minutes. Because of the Sri Lankan cricket, the first pictures seen were after the toss but you did get a good view of mine and Nowak's bums. A bonus for the ladies.

The game itself went very quick. The standard of football in the ladies game has never been higher. They really do tackle and pass the ball extremely well and the two goals scored in the first half were of excellent quality. The game itself in the first half was a quiet one for the officials (thankfully). One potential moment of controversy occurred in the dying seconds of the first half when a free kick was awarded perilously close to the edge of the penalty area. Mr Forrester was extremely well placed

to make the decision and TV replays proved that he got it spot on! We went back to the dressing rooms at half time and again waited for the floor manager's directions to go out for the second half and for kick off. One surreal moment was a manager being interviewed live on camera as he walked back across the pitch for the second half. Don't often see that on Racecourse pitch 13.

The second half went equally well for the officials, again very little for us to do but what we had to do was done well. The full time whistle went and we made our way to the centre circle to shake hands with both teams, who seemed pleased with our performances if not their result. The game itself was a key match in qualification for the Champions League next season and both times would have had a slight advantage had they won. Our live TV adventure was over. We were all pleased that the game had ended with nobody talking about our performances; our goal at the start of the game had been achieved.

We all agreed it had been a really enjoyable experience and a great opportunity for us all. As we left the ground the heavens opened and it rained all the way home but nothing could dampen our enthusiasm! Great pun to end on ;)

<http://www.fawsl.com/latestVideos/706582188.html>

## YOU ARE THE UCL PREM REF!!

Every month we put you in the pressurised position of a UCL Premier Division referee and ask, "What would you do?"

It is the last minute of a real ding dong encounter between Blackstones and St Ives, and with the score at 2-2, both sides are pushing hard for the 3 points. Suddenly out of the corner of your eye - while Blackstones are playing some neat passes in midfield - you see a Blackstones substitute throw his shin pad in a reckless manner at the St Ives right back.

**WHAT ACTION WOULD YOU TAKE?**

Tune in next month to find out the answer!!!



**Last Months Answer :**

**The goal should not be awarded, and play restarted with a dropped ball at the point where the ball burst. (Law 2—Replacement of a defective ball)**



## REFEREE PROFILE

<b>Name</b>	Wayne 'Snakey' Chalmers
<b>Referee Level</b>	4
<b>When did you start refereeing and how did you get into it?</b>	Started refereeing in 2000. I got into it as I was the manager of a youth side at under 10 level. We never had a ref appointed so I thought it best I did the course and qualified on a 1:1 basis with Peter Thompson. I worked nights at the time so went round his house to do the course. His wife made great cups of tea and his dog was vicious. Hopefully I have that the right way round.
<b>Where was your first game and who were the two teams?</b>	Corby Legion Locos Res v Islip Utd Res. I never blew the whistle for the first 15 minutes. I was appointed by Rodney Burt, it was an experience.
<b>Which is the best ground you have officiated at?</b>	Without a doubt, the Emirates. I reffed there last season on a charity tournament. A superb stadium. I got to look around and get into the lounge where the trophies are housed. I was also lucky enough to share the field of play with Robert Pires who was a true gent.
<b>What has been your most memorable refereeing moment?</b>	Apart from the above, I was lucky enough recently to be involved in a live game on ESPN. I have made some superb friends through refereeing who really do give 100% to their sport which is not always appreciated.
<b>What has been your worst refereeing moment?</b>	I don't believe in worst moments. They are all learning experiences. I try not to make the same mistake twice.
<b>Which person or people have helped you the most in refereeing?</b>	All of my colleagues. Either watching or listening, we never stop learning.
<b>What are your future refereeing goals?</b>	I'd like to get to level 3. I know it is achievable and I have worked hard on my fitness this summer. I have refereed well over the last year or so and hope to continue this way.
<b>What would be the best advice you would give to new referees?</b>	Never stop learning. Advice is valuable. Watch referees. Pick out the bits you like but equally pick out the bits you don't. Everyone is individual, don't become a refereeing robot. The best advice though is to enjoy it, it is what refereeing is all about.
<b>If you could change one of the Laws of the Game, what would it be and why?</b>	A tough question. I'd love to make it easier for referees at semi pro and below with regards to things like sock tape and undergarments.
<b>Who is or was your sporting hero?</b>	Another tough one. Anyone who gives it 100% is amazing. I have lost count of the times I felt overwhelmed with emotion during the Olympics and Paralympics, they are all heroes to me. Sacrifice, courage and dedication. Amazing attributes in human beings.
<b>Favourite sport (other than football)?</b>	Cricket, cricket, cricket. It may even beat football.
<b>Favourite food and drink?</b>	I love pasta, KFC and anything bad. I do like to drink water with a beer every now and again.
<b>Favourite Film?</b>	Kodak. Apart from that, The Last King of Scotland, The Green Mile and anything thought provoking.
<b>Favourite Music/Band?</b>	Black Eyed Peas. I love anything with a beat that makes me smile.
<b>Favourite Referee?</b>	Stuart Burt.
<b>If you could be invisible for one day, what would you do?</b>	Hide.

**NEXT MONTH WE PROFILE :** Dave Avent

## CLARKY'S TRIVIA



### Sharp Shooter John Clark Fires Some Local Trivia At You!

When it was announced at the full council meeting of the Northamptonshire Football Association on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> January 2011 that Kevin Shoemake was to become the organisation's new Chief Executive, a little bit of history was created.

Since the NFA was formed in 1886, its leading administrator has always been Northamptonshire born until Mr Shoemake's appointment.

In my lifetime, I have seen four chiefs at the NFA and they are, or were, all very enthusiastic about cricket. Obviously their cricketer allegiances depended, to a certain extent, on their birthplace. Kevin Shoemake was born in Wickford, and therefore he is a follower of Essex County Cricket Club. However, during his playing days, Kevin had the distinction of performing in the Premier Division of three different County Cricket Leagues, Essex, Kent and Northamptonshire. He played for Peterborough Town in the Northants League.

David Payne was Chief Executive of the NFA from 2002 to 2010 and he is a keen cricket watcher, often seen sitting in the Spencer Pavilion at Northampton's County Ground.

David succeeded Brian Walden who had taken charge at the NFA in 1981. Brian used to umpire in the Kettering Town Cricket League and I saw him watching Australia playing against Northants at the County Ground on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> July 1985. It was the opening day of a three day tourist fixture, notable for the fact that Australian batsman, David Boon, scored a double century in one day.

Norman Hillier ran the NFA for 34 years, taking control in 1947. He was a member of Northamptonshire County Cricket Club's General Committee for many years. However Norman resigned his position at the Cricket Club, stating that he felt that too much power within the organisation was in the hands of Secretary Ken Turner. There were a few people within the Northampton sporting fraternity at the time, who found this to be rather ironic, as Mr Hillier himself appeared to wield a lot of power within Northamptonshire Football Association!

I will leave you with a little teaser. If February is the shortest month of the year, what is the longest month?

I will give you the answer in the next issue.

*John Clark*

**Definition of Offside :** A player is offside if they are nearer to the opponent's goal line than both the ball and the second last player - except on alternate Saturdays when in addition the second last player they must be facing in the opposite direction from which the ball is played.

A player is not offside if they are in their own half of the field, or they are level with the second last opponent, or the player, one opponent and referee form an equilateral triangle as viewed by the Assistant Referee positioned on the Celestial Meridian.

All offside decisions are immediately found to be in favour of the defending team, if shortly after the ball is played they all stop in unison, and raise their right arm to the Assistant and appeal for an offside decision.

# “REFEREEE - NOT A CHANCE!”

It is May 1953, and our neighbour has just acquired a Television, the first in our village, and he has kindly invited me to watch the FA Cup Final (now famously known as the “Matthews Final”) [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1953\\_FA\\_Cup\\_Final](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1953_FA_Cup_Final).



Stan Matthews—1953 FA Cup Final

At the end of the match, a 4-3 thriller in which Stan Mortensen scores a hat-trick, I run home to my mum and tell her that I now know what I want to be when I grow up. She replies that I have no chance of being a footballer, however I immediately retort with, “No, I’m going to be more important than that, I’m going to be a referee”. “Not a chance”, she responds. The reason? I was born semi-paralysed in my upper body, and until I was fifteen, I couldn’t even feed or dress myself.

Undeterred, the following week I asked my school Sports Master if he would let me referee the next school match. He laughed at first, but when he saw I was deadly serious, he agreed to let me have a go, and I never looked back.

Between the ages of 11 and 17, I refereed about 100 schoolboy matches, including the Cheshire Schools Final at Macclesfield Town’s ground. This took place before one of their home games in front of a crowd of about 2,000.

On my 17<sup>th</sup> birthday, I registered with Macclesfield (Cheshire) FA as a Class 3 (Level 7 for those who are post decimalisation!), and was given a list of appointments in an open age league. My first game was a Derby matchup between Congleton Rangers and Congleton Corinthians. What I didn’t know at the time, was that in the corresponding fixture earlier in the season, five players had been sent off!!

I was so thrilled to be doing an adult game that I arrived at the local park at 12pm for a 3pm kick-off. As I was getting changed, a gentleman came into the dressing room and introduced himself as Jack. He asked if I needed a linesman, to which I replied yes and he proceeded to tell me that he was a Football League referee. I proudly announced to him that this was my first adult game, to which he replied with a piece of advice that I’ve followed ever since.

**“There are 22 players out there son, if you can’t deal with 22, make it 21, 20, 19 or a number you feel comfortable with”.**

Jack, of course, turned out to be the legendary

Jack Taylor, who sadly passed away recently. The game went well with only a couple of minor problems, the clubs thanked me and more importantly I thoroughly enjoyed it.

Over the next 6 years, I refereed on average 3 games a week. In 1965, a new league was introduced to the local scene, the Macclesfield Sunday League. Cheshire FA immediately warned all referees that Sunday football was “unlawful”, and any referee who officiated on this new league, would be suspended. After 3 weeks though Macclesfield had no referees left for regular Saturday football, and so a dramatic U-turn from the Cheshire FA saw the suspensions lifted, common sense had prevailed.

It seems I was fated to always fall foul of the local FA in this league, since 2 seasons later, I was watching a young new referee in his first game. He correctly gave a penalty against the home centre half, who then promptly head-butted the lad, broke his nose and knocked him out cold!! I ran on to the pitch, called an ambulance, sent the player off and took over the game. Both the player and the home team argued vehemently that I’d no authority to do this and they would be reporting me to the League and the local FA. At the disciplinary meeting a couple of weeks later, I was admonished for entering the field without the ref’s permission! (he was unconscious!) and fined 2 match fees! The player was warned as to his future conduct, and the poor young ref (who had spent 7 days in hospital) was told he hadn’t reported the incident within the stipulated time span and was therefore also fined! A great way to encourage new referees!

At the end of 1968, I emigrated to British Columbia, Canada, and within 3 weeks had started refereeing in the BC West Pacific League, containing teams such as Vancouver Whitecaps, Seattle Sounders and Calgary Flames. It was quite a stronghold for football, but getting to a game could be a journey of up to 1000 miles, quite often in a small seaplane, which could be quite scary.

In the early 70s, a new league was formed, The NASL (North American Soccer League), showcasing such ageing stars as Pele, Bobby Moore,



Pele—A Nightmare to Referee

Rodney Marsh, George Best and Franz Beckenbauer. It was a thrill to be part of this attempt to break new ground and bring the beautiful game to a country that thought (and still do) that football is a game involving blokes running round in shoulder pads and helmets!

Although Pele is in many people’s eyes the greatest footballer ever, he was a referee’s worst nightmare to handle, and I speak from experience. The highlight of my time across the pond was to be appointed to run the line in an international between Canada and Bermuda in Vancouver. Canada’s manager was Tony Waiters (the ex Blackpool and England goalkeeper) and Bermuda had Clyde Best (ex West Ham).

In the late 70s I returned to the UK, and took up registration with Altrincham FA as a Class 2 (Level 6). I wanted to get to Class 1 (Level 5), and despite having the highest marks in the county, Cheshire FA refused to put me forward on the grounds of my disability. They felt I wouldn’t cope with the pressure. I’d never felt so low in my life and decided to quit, but the support from my colleagues, players and local teams persuaded me to reverse that decision.

In 1991, Jack’s advice came back to haunt me. I was refereeing a Police Federation Cup game between arch rivals Yorks & Lancs Police; it really was War of the Roses stuff. After only eight minutes, Yorks scored and within seconds there was a mass brawl involving at least a dozen players. After a quick consultation with both assistants, who had no idea who had started it, I decided to send off all 22 players and abandon the game!! Both captains appealed to me that they were policemen and couldn’t be sent off, however I stuck to my guns. A week later the FA banned both teams and all players for 12 months. Ever since then, I’ve always been very careful about my speed on the M62!

Ironically, as a young ref at the age of 21, I was amazed that we had a Macclesfield RA member, Dennis Hunt, who would proudly announce he was class 3X which meant he was over 50. I used to think he was mad to still be refereeing at that age, with no prospect of promotion. But here I am now, 66 years young, still loving every minute, from the moment I pull on my shirt, to the moment I blow the final whistle. Although when a player once told me I had sent his granddad off, it made me think about whether I was too old for all this.

On a final note, I would like to say that although I’ve been disabled all my life, I’ve only really been handicapped since I got married! And since that day when my mum said “referee – no chance”, I have been determined not to let my disability affect or hinder my performance, and to prove that I can referee as well as any able bodied person.

For any new or aspiring young referee’s out there, I would say “go for it”, you will make a few enemies, a lot of friends, and if your career is as good as mine, you will have a great life!

Ron McCahill - NRA Member

Got a story to tell of your refereeing career? Why not drop us a line at: [newsletter@northamptonreferees.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@northamptonreferees.org.uk)

## SEPTEMBER MEETING

At our September meeting Peter Kirkup (picture), Premier League Select Group Assistant, UEFA Assistant and FIFA Assistant, ran a practical session on how to deal with the following restarts:

- Attacking "Ceremonial" Free-Kick
- Corner Kick
- Penalty Kick

The aim of the session was to focus on what is required from the referee, in order to manage each restart in a manner that maintains match control.

### Free Kick

Once the free kick has been given and you arrive at the site of the foul you must take control of the situation immediately. At this point you should not allow a quick free kick and manage the restart via a "ceremonial" free kick.

Firstly, position the ball from where you want the kick to be taken and inform the taker that the kick will be "on the whistle". Tell him if he takes it before the whistle, he risks a caution.

If you have Neutral Assistant Referees, then they can be briefed pre-match to monitor the ball being moved (non-active AR), and scan the players for conflict (active AR)

Next, pace out the distance of the wall at 9.15m; moving the players back with the whistle if necessary. It is important that you tell the defensive side that the restart will be on the whistle, as this will relax them and should enable you to move the wall back more easily. Always pace the distance to one end of the wall (don't walk into the middle of it), to the side which is closest to the touchline, as this will ensure you do not have your back to the majority of the players. If the kicker does move the ball while you are doing this, the defensive side will be quick to tell you (if you have Club AR's), and you can rectify this swiftly.

If the 9.15m brings the wall onto the penalty area line, ensure you position it either inside or outside, as on the

line will only cause you difficulty if there is a handball. If it is to be inside, reinforce this point to the players in the wall.

Once you are happy with the position of the wall, walk along the front, telling players to hold their position, be proactive and warn them not to raise their arms outside of their body space, as this will be interpreted as handball. Communicate this with body language, so that everyone sees you warning them about this.

Retreat quickly to a central, neutral, clear viewing position. Try to make sure you are not in front or level with the line of the ball, as this could put you in the way of a forward or lateral pass. Keep using your voice to control the wall.

If conflict occurs in the wall between players, move in quickly to settle them, warn that if you have to return again it will be for cautions. If you do have to return, make sure you do issue a caution.

A loud, sharp whistle should then be given to restart play

### Corner

Position of the ball – The Assistant Referee will manage this when the corner is on their side. If the corner is from the other side, have a glance over to check the positioning. If you have Neutral Assistants, the non-active assistant could monitor this by looking down the touchline.

It is important to be very proactive early on, as the players arrive in the penalty area. Give verbal warnings to keep arms down, no holding or blocking of the goal keeper.

Take up a position where the penalty arc meets the penalty area, on the side furthest from your Assistant Referee, but be prepared to be on the move when the ball is in play and to adjust your viewing angle to suit the

landing zone.

Try asking an attacking player who the target is. Say that you can then watch them to make sure defenders don't foul them!

The active Assistant Referee is to monitor the goal line for the ball crossing the line. If these are Club Assistants, all you can do is ask for their honesty in such a scenario during the pre-match briefing. If the situation arises and they do not give a goal, make sure you are very loud in conveying "No Goal, Play On" in a very confident voice. Sell the decision.

If you have Neutral Assistant Referees, you should use them to monitor conflict within the goal area.

If conflict happens prior to the kick being taken, get in early and pull players out to warn of the risk of a Penalty or Free Kick if they repeat the behaviour when the ball is in play. Remember to tell corner kicker to wait if you have to go in.

Never go back in a second time for a warning, you will appear weak as no one took notice of first warning. Issue a caution.

Note which defensive players are on the posts, or get your Neutral Assistant to do this, as there is potential there for a handball which denies an obvious goal scoring opportunity

A loud, sharp whistle should then be given to restart play

Don't watch ball once kicked, focus on the players in area

### Penalty

Once you have given a penalty, it is essential that you move quickly to calm a potentially volatile situation down, as quickly as possible. Ensure that you swiftly clear the penalty area of all players, especially any dissenters. Be firm if they won't move away, as this is a tactic often used to delay

the kick and put pressure on the taker.

Get the goal keeper back to his line so he cannot interfere with the taker, be strong with him also. If he appears to be trying to delay the kick, threaten him with a caution.

Identify the penalty taker, and point him out to the goal keeper. Ensure the taker spots the ball up correctly. Once you are happy, tell him to wait for the whistle.

Move to left side of area and instruct all players (other than the taker and the GK), to remain outside the area/penalty arc. Warn that any encroachment prior to the kick will be penalised accordingly. Remember, no player can stand ahead of ball even outside of the area.

If you have Club Assistant referees, take up a viewing position to left of the goal, closer to 6 yard line than the edge of penalty area, as you will be responsible for all activity. Prioritise as follows:

- GK movement
- Ball over goal line
- Dummying at point of kick
- Ball played 2<sup>nd</sup> time by kicker off crossbar.
- Encroachment
- A Club Assistant Referee is to play **no** role in any of the above.

Once you are happy everyone correctly positioned, give a loud, sharp, clear whistle

If you have Neutral Assistant Referees, utilise them as follows:

The active AR is to come round to edge of area and be responsible for goal keeper moving off his line. Tell him in the pre-match to boss the goal keeper in this situation.

The active AR is to also monitor the ball crossing the line

You are then left to focus on any player encroachment and any deception during kicking motion

A loud, sharp whistle should then signal for the kick to be taken.



## SUMMARY

### FREE KICK

- Position Ball
- Whistle restart only
- Move wall back 9.15m
- Never place wall on penalty area line
- Warn against raising arms
- Caution if conflict repeated
- Retreat to neutral position out of way

### CORNER

- Be proactive
- Stand on edge of penalty area
- AR to monitor ball over line
- Pull out players if conflict occurs
- Caution if conflict repeated
- Note players on post
- Don't watch ball. Watch players

### PENALTY

- Clear Penalty Area
- Get GK on line
- Identify taker
- Warn of encroachment
- Monitor everything if club AR

# PRE-MATCH INSTRUCTIONS TO CLUB ASSISTANTS

It is of paramount importance that you ensure you adequately brief your two Club Assistants as to what you require from them during the match. The briefing must be short and straight forward enough to maintain their often low levels of concentration but comprehensive enough to ensure that they can aid your match control rather than hinder it.

You must appreciate that often the chosen Club Assistants will resent being given the responsibility of the flag, especially when the honour has been bestowed upon a substitute player, who probably thinks he should be in Alex Ferguson's starting eleven, let alone the local Sunday pub side! As your refereeing level rises, you will start to notice an increase in the enthusiasm of your Club Assistants, as well as the requirement (League Rules need to be investigated), for the Assistants to be Non-Substitute players. Whoever you are given to work with however, you should be mindful that you need to squeeze as much help out of them as they can humanly offer, so an enthusiastic approach is the best mantra to adopt.



The key to your briefing therefore should be to make both Assistants feel comfortable, give them clear responsibilities and to make them feel that they are a crucial and valued part of your role in controlling the game.

Call your two Assistants to the centre circle, at least 10 minutes before the kick-off time, to ensure you do not rush your briefing. It is also worth noting that the ruling of some Leagues is that your assistants should report to you in your dressing room prior to kick off. If this is the case, then carry out your briefing there.

Introduce yourself, take each of their names and enter these in your referee's notebook, as you will need them later to mark them out of 10 or 100 (league dependant), for the league result card.

Remember their first names, and use them from now on until you leave the ground.

Tell them how grateful you are that they have taken the responsibility of being your assistants for the following 90 minutes, hand them a flag each and then brief them along the following lines:

## BRIEFING

### **WHICH LINE?**

Ask both Assistants to run the line closest to their own teams **LEFT BACK**, so that they run their own defence. Never let an Assistant run their teams attacking line.

### **BALL IN & OUT OF PLAY**

#### Throw-ins

Anything in their half is for them to signal, you will deal with anything in your half  
If they are unsure, tell them to look at you and you will lead them  
If you do need to overrule them, then tell them

to drop their flag and signal with you  
Ask them to give a nice positive flag when signalling

### Goal Kicks/ Corners

Signal all goal kicks & corners with a positive flag

If they are unsure, tell them to look at you and you will lead them

If you do need to overrule them, then tell them to drop their flag and signal with you

For a goal kick check the ball is placed in the goal area & move up to the rear most defender  
For a corner, stand behind the flag.

### **BALL CROSSING THE GOAL LINE**

If at any point there is a shout for a goal and you are not in a position to see whether the ball has crossed the line, tell them you will look at them. All you then want is one of two responses, but emphasise that you are relying heavily on their total honesty in any such situation

If they are 100% sure it is a goal, tell them to raise their flag and run back to the halfway line

If they are not 100% sure it is a goal, tell them not to guess, but to give you a big shake of the head, shout no and stand their ground

### **OFFSIDE**

Stress that if at the time a player **TOUCHES** or **PLAYS** the ball, a team mate is in an offside position, they are to **WAIT**. Ask them to raise the flag **ONLY** if one of the following happens:

The player in the offside position **Plays** or touches the ball or moves towards the ball and is the only player who is close enough to play it

The player in the offside position **Interferes** with an opponent who is attempting to play the ball, by either physical contact or an action which deceives or distracts the opponent

The player in the offside position **Gains** an advantage by being in that position, which means that he plays or touches the ball after it has rebounded to him off either the goal post, crossbar or an opponent

In **ALL** other instances, tell them to keep the flag down.

When they do need to signal for offside, ask them to raise the flag high, and to keep it there. One of three things will then happen:

- 1) You will see the flag, blow your whistle and award a free-kick. At that point they can change their signal to confirm if the offence is Near, Middle or Far. When they are happy that the ball has been placed in the correct position, tell them they can drop the flag
- 2) You will signal and shout "Play On". You will do this if you feel that the game does not need stopping for the offence. At this point they are to drop their flag
- 3) You will **MISS** the flag. If this happens, tell them to **KEEP THE FLAG UP** until you do see them. The only time you want them to drop the flag, is if **THEY** are happy that the ball has been cleared out of any danger by the defence and

thus that particular phase of play is over.

### **FREE-KICKS**

Convey to them that you are happy to deal with **ALL** issues relating to any fouls & misconduct. However, if there is an obvious foul right in front of them that you have obviously missed, you would welcome a flag for it. It is wise to warn them though, that any such decision will inevitably draw attention to them from the team which has been penalised.

### **PENALTIES**

With regard to the taking of penalties, please stress to them that you will deal with **ALL** elements of the taking of the kick and that they should **NOT** get involved in anything. The last thing you want is for a Club Assistant to order a re-take for encroachment by the attacking team!

### **SUBSTITUTIONS**

You should deal with **ALL** elements of any substitutions. However ask them to signal to you

### **SUMMARY**

<b>WHICH LINE? -</b>	ALWAYS THEIR OWN LEFT BACK
<b>BALL IN/OUT OF PLAY -</b>	THROW-INS/GOAL-KICKS/CORNERS
<b>BALL OVER THE LINE -</b>	100% = FLAG UP NOT 100% = BIG NO!
<b>OFFSIDE - WAIT - P.I.G</b>	
<b>FREE-KICKS -</b>	ALL YOURS UNLESS FOUL IS OBVIOUS AND CLOSE
<b>PENALTIES -</b>	ALL YOURS
<b>SUBSTITUTIONS -</b>	ALL YOURS

that a team wishes to make a change, when the ball has gone out of play.

It should be stressed that the above is only a guideline and that you are quite at liberty to add, omit or amend any of the above. Do what you feel is best to enable your Club Assistants to help you achieve that goal.

If you have any views or comments we would like to hear them at:

[newsletter@northamptonreferees.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@northamptonreferees.org.uk)

# REFEREES

A black and white illustration of a referee with a prominent mustache, wearing a cap and a dark jacket, pointing directly at the viewer.

**YOUR RA NEEDS YOU!**

CLICK THE IMAGE TO DOWNLOAD AN APPLICATION

### APOLOGY

Unfortunately the Editor of this Newsletter has to publish an apology to the Archery fraternity, due to the printing of an inaccurate headline in the September 2012 issue. It is with regret that we used the term "Bullseye" in our front page article regarding Alan Archer's involvement in the Olympics. According to Archery sources, the term "Bullseye" has no place in archery vocabulary, a point which is further clarified by the following official statement received from an esteemed member of the British Archery community.



*"In target archery, as shot at the Olympics, the target face is standardised and the centre, which is 6.1cm in diameter, is coloured yellow but is referred to as Gold! This centre piece is never called the "Bullseye" by archers, nor should it ever be referred to as such! Bullseye is a darts term, which has no place in our sport. It is also the title of the very lame game show hosted by Jim Bowen from 1981 to 1995 (295 shows), and then revived in 2006 and hosted by Dave Spikey (30 shows)"* [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bullseye\\_\(UK\\_game\\_show\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bullseye_(UK_game_show))

We unequivocally apologise for any offence or distress that this article may have caused. ED



DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING YOU WOULD LIKE TO BE COVERED IN THE NEWSLETTER OR HAVE AN ARTICLE YOU WOULD LIKE PUBLISHED? IF YOU DO, PLEASE EMAIL US AT [newsletter@northamptonreferees.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@northamptonreferees.org.uk)



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## CLYDE THE CLAIRVOYANT CAT!

Yes, that's right, you are not hearing things! Clyde the Cat has predicted the results of the next four Sunday Premiership matches that kick off at 4pm, Live on Sky Sports.

In order to give you his mystic predictions, Clyde selected one of three bowls filled with food, each bowl being labelled with one of the three possible results for each match in question - Home Win/ Away Win/ Draw.

This process was carried out over a painstaking 4 day period where Clyde used all of his knowledge of Premiership football to formulate his predictions.

Now all that remains, is for you to sit back, grab a beer and marvel at the pinpoint accuracy of this feline mastermind!

30 Sep	Aston Villa -v- West Brom	AWAY WIN
07 Oct	Newcastle -v- Man Utd	DRAW
21 Oct	QPR -v- Everton	AWAY WIN
28 Oct	Chelsea -v- Man Utd	DRAW

The above picture has been modified to give the impression that Clyde drinks beer. This is NOT the case in real life. Please do not ring the RSPCA. Clyde was not harmed during the making of this article.



Click on the NFA Logo to be transported to the referee section of the NFA website, for all of the latest County FA news and information.

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### Quiz Questions to Last Months Answers!!

1. Which club won the 1982 European Cup Final? 2. In what year did Spain host the World Cup? 3. Who rode Troy to victory in the 200th Epsom Derby in 1979? 4. Which famous English cricketer was born in Nuncargate, Nottinghamshire in 1904? 5. Which county does England Cricket Captain Alistair Cook play for?